

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated June 1, 2005.

The Examiner's comment about the claim language has been answered by minor, non-limiting amendments to claim 1.

Claims 1-11 were rejected over Powell in view of Fezio. Claims 12-17 were rejected over Powell, Fezio and Piegay. Claim 18 was not rejected over prior art.

The main reference is U.S. Patent No. 4,022,491 (Powell). The Examiner refers to a "guide element" 50 and "fastening elements" 18 and 40 in Figure 6 of this patent.

The rejection is emphatically traversed. The Examiner argues in part that the guide element 50 is "allowed limited mobility in the longitudinal direction of the sliding board by the other fastening elements (18)" However, the fasteners 18 are part of the first and second embodiments of Powell's invention (Figs. 1-4). They have nothing to do with the guide element 50 in Powell's third embodiment (Figs. 5-7). More specifically, there is no basis anywhere in Powell for the Examiner's concept that the element 50 has limited mobility with respect to the element 18.

In Figure 6 of Powell, the one-piece support means 40 is embedded in the body of the ski 42. This embodiment has no fastening element 18, and no guide element having limited mobility as claimed. Rather, longitudinal movement of the plate means 50 relative to the support means 40 is limited by up-turned flanges 58. The arrangement known from Powell differs therefore from the claimed invention. And the combination of Powell with U.S. Patent No. 5,544,908 (Fezio) has nothing that is more relevant to the claims.

Therefore, no substantive amendments are needed in claim 1. Although cosmetic, non-limiting amendments are being made to improve the grammar in the claims, reconsideration of original claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-18 is requested.

In particular, regarding claim 18, any future rejection of this claim on prior art must be non-final, since claim 18 has not heretofore been rejected over any prior art.

Also presented is a new dependent claim 19.

According to claim 19, the recited guide element has at least two fastening elements that are spaced apart from each other in the longitudinal direction of the sliding board. The figures of this application clearly disclose this feature, which is also described for instance in paragraph [0018].

According to claim 1 and claim 19, the arrangement of the guide element 8 on the sliding board 1, held fixedly by the fastening element 7a and held movably by the fastening elements 7 (referring for example to Fig. 2), permits deflection of the sliding board relative to the guide elements during use. This is not the case with the arrangement of Powell, wherein the part 40 stiffens the ski and does not allow deflection of the ski during use.

The further references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action are not relevant with regard to the features of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1-19 is requested.

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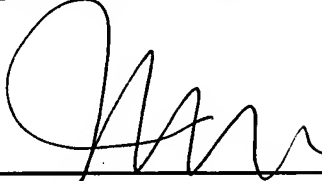
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August 29, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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